GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:40
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2006
AMENDMENTS IN LAW
Tripathy Shri Braja Kishore;Yadav Shri Baleshwar

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to change the definition of rape in the relevant Law;

(b) if so, the details; thereof;

(c) the details of the suggestions made by the National Commission for Women and Law Panel in this regard;

(d) the reaction of the Government thereon; and

(e) the time by which the proposed changes are likely to be finalised?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY)

(a) & (b): The Government is yet to take a decision regarding the change of the definition of rape in the IPC.

(c) & (d): The Law Commission of India in its 172nd Report on `Review of Rape Laws` has recommended changes for widening scope of the offence in Section 375 of IPC to replace the word `Rape` with `Sexual Assault` and to make it gender neutral. The National Commission for Women (NCW) has separately forwarded a private bill on the same subject to the Government, recommending that the word `Rape` be replaced with `Sexual Assault` in Section 375 of IPC and to widen the scope of the offence prescribed therein.

The Government is examining the private bill, received from the NCW, along with the Law Commission`s Report.

(e): The Government is yet to take a decision regarding the recommendations of Law Commission, along with the suggestions made by the National Commission for Women and no time-frame can be fixed for finalization of the same.